

Watch

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide#2 City Harmonic - Tonights concert. *City Harmonic, Shawn McDonald & Royal Royal.*
- B. Slide#3 Bob Tyler speaking - This Sat Oct 19th at CCBF. PTA, Parents & Teachers in Action.
- C. Slide#4 Nursery servants -

II. Intro:

- A. Slide#5 Title: *Watch*
- B. Slide#6 Remember on **Thanksgiving day 2003**, President Bush flew to Iraq under the cover of darkness to dine with U.S. forces at a *Baghdad International Airport* mess hall. Bush's surprise trip delighted troops & stunned the nation.
 - 1. **Sometimes** our **Commander & Chief** shares his schedule with us...**other times** it is **Top Secret**.
 - 2. Slide#7 **Sometimes** our **Heavenly Commander & Chief** shares his schedule with us...**other times** it is **Top Secret, classified, confidential, hush-hush**.
 - a) When we study the End Times we notice **with Israel** He shares His schedule; regarding **The Church** it's *Classified, confidential, hush-hush*.
- C. Jesus winds down the Olivet discourse with 2 parables.
 - 1. **The 1st** (28-31) emphasize knowing that His coming is near.
 - a) **The 2nd** parable emphasizes not knowing the time of his return.
 - 2. **The 1st** seems to wrap up speaking to the tribulation folks.
 - a) **The 2nd** to all believers of every age.

III. Slide#8 **PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE (28-31)**

- A. The Fig Tree has special association with Israel. Mark 11:12-14
 - 1. The people living during the tribulation will be able to watch these things occur & will know that His coming is near.
 - 2. **This assurance will help them endure till the end.** vs.13
- B. **Summer is near** - and the harsh winter of the Tribulation is past.
 - 1. When you see signs of Spring, you know Summer is near. Here in our Valley...
 - 2. When you see the **Strawberry stands** start opening...**you know summer is near.**
 When you see **Calif wild Poppy's** pop up along our 15 frwy...**you know summer is near.**
 When you see **flip flops** emerge out of their closets...**you know summer is near.**
- C. (31) **My words** – Wow. We've heard Is.40:8 **The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.** *Hear Jesus puts His words on equal footing w/the OT Scriptures.*

1. We as believers do not depend on **signs**, we depend on **His unchanging Word**, *“we have the prophetic word confirmed.”*
2. **Slide#9** Everything **wrong**, everything **evil** will pass away, & we have the hope of a new Heaven & Earth. Where *peace, justice, hope, joy, & love* will have no end.

IV. **Slide#10 PARABLE OF THE HOUSE HOLDER (32-37)**

- A. **Slide#11** Now we deal with the *Rapture* of the church.
 1. Where will you be after the rapture?
 2. **Slide#12** See real web site for your pets to be cared for after the rapture.
- B. **No one knows** – So far everything has been calc'd out down to the day in dealing w/Israel.
 1. *i.e.* Daniel 12:11 **And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be 1290 days.** (3 ½ yrs)
 2. **Now** in dealing with **the church** time is deliberately **unspecific**.
- C. Many people have speculated about **the date** of Christ's return & they all have one thing in common...they have all been *wrong*.
 1. **Slide#13** So we are not to look for **signs** but to look for **Him**.
 2. Remember, we are on the **welcoming committee** not on the **planning committee**.
 3. **We must learn to live in the tension** between...**readiness** for Jesus return & **planning** for generations to come.
- D. Please don't use, nor fall for, the ol' *the word rapture is not in the bible*.
 1. Neither is the word **grandfather** (KJV), **yet** there are grandfathers in the bible
 2. Actually **it is in** the **Jerome's Latin Vulgate** back in 405ad.
- E. **We distinguish:** Christ coming **for** His church, & Christ coming **with** His saints.
 1. 1 Thes.4:17 **Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up** (*αρπαζο/αρραζο*) **together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.**
 2. Jude quoting Enoch said, **Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints.** Jude14
 - a) **Slide#14** At Rapture Jesus comes for His saints. At 2nd Coming Jesus comes w/His saints
 - b) At Rapture we meet Christ in the air. At 2nd Coming we return with Christ.
 - c) At Rapture saints are changed. At 2nd Coming no change to saints.
 - d) The Rapture is imminent. 2nd Coming preceded by definite signs & is calculated to the day.
 - e) **Slide#15** At Rapture deals with the saved. At 2nd Coming deals with the saved & unsaved
 - f) At Rapture Satan is not bound. At 2nd Coming Satan is bound.
 - g) At Rapture the world is not changed. At 2nd Coming the world is radically changed

h) The Rapture no one sees Jesus. The 2nd Coming all will see Him.

F. **Slide#16 TAKE HEED** [*Watch; Pray; Work*]

G. **Take heed to yourselves** – Be on your guard. Don't get lazy. Don't give up. Don't cave in.

1. **But can you give me a few things Jesus that You'd warning us against?**

a) **Slide#17** Ok, in Luke 21 Jesus gave us these...**be on your guard. Don't let the sharp edge of your expectation get dulled by parties and drinking and shopping. Otherwise, that Day is going to take you by complete surprise, spring on you suddenly like a trap, for it's going to come on everyone, everywhere, at once.** Lk.21:34-36 Msg

H. **Slide#18 WATCH**

I. **Slide#19 The Pony Express.** This historically famous *mail service* between St. Joseph, Missouri, and California depended on **constant movement** and **readiness**. Relay stations were established every 10-15 miles. A rider would shout aloud as he approached a station, giving the station master very short notice that he needed to be outside waiting with a fresh mount. Even when a rider came to the station where he was to spend the night, another rider was already mounted and waiting, ready to grab the first rider's bundle of packages and continue the trip. The completion of the *transcontinental telegraph system* rendered the Pony Express obsolete after just 18 months. **But we have this service's intriguing example of what it means to be ever watchful.**¹

J. **Watch** – Main practical thought for this chapter is that of *watchfulness* (33,34,35,37)

1. **Slide#20** 1st **watch** is diff from the other 3. *ἀγρυπνέω (agripneo) be sleepless.*

2. (other 3) The English name *Gregory* comes from this word *γρηγορέω grēgoreō* meaning **be awake; be alert; be alive.**

3. **Why must we be alert?** – The Christian is to be ready for Christ's unpredictable return all the time.

4. **Slide#21** In Greek mythology there is a monster named **Argus** who had a 100 eyes, & only 2 of which were said to sleep at once. [Argus-eyed = Extremely observant; vigilant]

a) **Argus Panoptes** was a giant with 100 eyes. He was thus a very effective watchman, as only a few of the eyes would sleep at a time; there were always eyes still awake. Argus was Hera's servant. To free Io[ee-oh], Zeus had Argus slain by Hermes. *Hermes, disguised as a shepherd, first put all of Argus's eyes asleep with boring stories.* To commemorate her faithful watchman, Hera had the hundred eyes of Argus preserved forever, in a **peacock's tail.**

5. **Slide#22blank** He will come **suddenly, unexpectedly, but unmistakably.**

6. **Note:** He said, **keep watch not keep predicting.** [please don't predict, because then He can't come on that day]

¹ Today in the Word, December, 1997, p. 17

7. Even Jesus didn't predict his return while on earth.

a) Explain Jewish wedding

K. **Slide#23 Dr. Horatius Bonar** (Scottish hymn writer, 1800's, served the Lord for 60 yrs.) **when he'd draw the curtains at night, would say, "Perhaps Tonight Lord!" Also, in the morning he'd draw open the shades & see the new day & say, "Perhaps Today Lord!"**

L. When Kelly was away at college in S.D. for a semester when we were dating, oh how I anticipated her return. **Wives waiting for their husbands to return from Afghanistan [Emily/Colin].**

M. **Slide#24 PRAY**

N. **Slide#25a** This word for **prayer** is ***the attitude of the soul in worship***, not nec **asking for something**.

1. **It's** prostration of soul in the presence of God.
2. **It's** the ***yearning of the desiring soul forward*** toward God.
3. **It's** the Psalmist cry, ***my soul followeth hard after Thee***. Ps.63:8 [***or my soul follows close behind You; or my soul clings to You***]
4. **Slide#25b** Watching is the sleepless vigil of the God-desiring soul. G. Campbell Morgan

O. **Slide#26 WORK**

P. This parable warns all of us today. (see vs.37 note the word **all**)

1. Like the householder, before our Lord went from us back to heaven, He gave each of us **work** to do.
2. **As a parent how do you feel when you left things for your kids to do before you got home...you arrive home & they *aren't* done?**
3. **He expects us to be faithful while He is gone & to be working when He returns.**
4. The teachings on the return of Christ is not to **excite** our **imagination**, **but** to **challenge** the **way we live here & now**.
 - a) **It should spur us to live holy lives & to be actively involved in service & evangelism.'**
 - b) And as James Gray said, ***Who can mind the journey when the road leads home?***

Q. **Slide#27 End: Back to that Secret Mission Thanksgiving dinner - With the president standing out of sight, L. Paul Bremer, the chief U.S. civilian administrator, told the soldiers it was time to read the president's Thanksgiving proclamation and that it was a task for the most senior official present. Then asked, "Is there anybody back there more senior than us?"**

1. That was the cue for Bush, who promptly stepped forward from behind a curtain, setting off pandemonium among the troops. The Commander in Chief, President Bushes 1st words at the mic were, **"I was just looking for a warm meal somewhere,"** Then said, **"I can't think of finer folks to have Thanksgiving dinner with than you all."**

- a) Oh what a Thanksgiving dinner *Our Heavenly Commander in Chief Jesus* has prepared for us, at *the Marriage Supper of the Lamb*.
- b) He might even say “*I can't think of finer folks to have Thanksgiving dinner with than you all*”. How will your heart react if it's **today**?
- R. When you see signs of end times you know His Coming is near.
1. *Slide#28 Watch everything & watching it, see God, & know that the Kingdom is ever near.*²
 - a) His kingdom is **already**; His kingdom is **not yet**; His kingdom is **always advancing**.
 - b) We **ARE** a day closer to His soon return...**watch!**
- S. *Slide#29* There's a minnow-like fish called *Four eyes*(anableps), which makes his home in Central and South America. What's unusual about him is his large, bulging eyes. They are so situated on his head that he can spend his time cruising along the water with only the upper **half of each eye** above the surface. The *top half* has an **air lens** and the *bottom half* has a **water lens**, which amounts to a set of **bifocals**, giving him the ability to see in **both the upper and under world**. *Slide#30blank*
- T. Titus 2:11-13 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, **looking for** the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

² G.Campbell Morgan